

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 02055 051407Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 /086 W

-----111666 051432Z /53

R 051120Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6517

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2055

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJECT: SOWETO TENSION PERSISTS AS KRUGER THREATENS TO CLOSE
SCHOOLS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 2030

1. SUMMARY: SPORADIC VIOLENCE IN SOWETO CONTINUES TO KEEP
TOWNSHIP UNEASY AS POLICE AND BANTU EDUCATION OFFICIALS
ANNOUNCE PLAN TO CLOSE SCHOOLS IF STUDENTS CONTINUE BOYCOTTS.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE RUNNING SKIRMEISHES BETWEEN YOUTHS AND POLICE
THAT HAVE PLAGUED SOWETO FOR OVER A WEEK CONTINUE AS
POLICE RESPOND TO ATTACKS FROM STONE THROWING CLUXTERS OF
YOUNG PEOPLE. NO SERIOUS INJURIES REPORTED BUT POLICE
HAVE ARRESTED APPROXIMATELY 75 IN LAST 24 HOURS.

3. MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER APPEARS PREPARED TO FOLLOW
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PAGE 02 JOHANN 02055 051407Z

THROUGH THREAT TO CLOSE SCHOOLS IF STUDENTS CONTINUE BOYCOTT.
KRUGER ISSUED A MINISTERIAL STATEMENT SAYING AS OF MONDAY,
AUGUST 8, INSPECTORS WOULD VISIT SCHOOLS AND DECIDE WHICH
TO CLOSE, WITH SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF TREACHING STAFF TO OTHER
SCHOOLS (OR LOCALES).

4. COMMENT: PUSH HAS COME TO SHOVE WITH KRUGER'S THREAT

TO CLOSE DOWN SCHOOLS. SOME SERIOUS DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO
BE MADE BY THE BLACK COMMUNITY BETWEEN NOW AND MONDAY. ONE
FACTOR WHICH MAY INFLUENCE ITS DECISION WOULD BE WHETHER SCHOOLS
ARE CLOSED TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY, WITH SOME TEACHERS
TRANSFERRED TO THE HOMELANDS. AT THIS STAGE, IT IS HARD TO
IMAGINE THE HARD LINERS (SUCH AS THE SSRC) BACKING DOWN,
BUT PERHAPS SOME PARENTS WILL BE ENERGIZED TO TAKE COUNTER-
ACTION RATHER THAN HAVE THEIR CHILDREN IDLE.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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